

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-04

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DRAFTED BY: NEA/ARN:TJCAROLAN:LF

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 051950

FOLLOWING REPEAT USUN NY 646 TO SECSTATE MAR 7, 1977

QTE C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0646

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN,CU,US, RQ

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF 24 (C-24)CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO  
AND US TERRITORIES

1. NORWEGIAN DEPUTY PERM REP (AND C-24 VICE CHAIRMAN)  
VRAALSEN RECENTLY DISCUSSED PUERTO RICO AND THE COMMITTEE OF  
24 WITH MISSION OFFICER. HE SAID THAT IN A RECENT CONVER-  
SATION WITH CUBAN PERM REP ALARCON, ALARCON EXPRESSED THE  
HOPE THAT SOME MOVEMENT IN US/CUBAN RELATIONS WILL TAKE  
PLACE AND, THAT IF THAT WERE THE CASE,HE WOULD BE  
WILLING TO SEE SOME ACCOMMODATION ON PUERTO RICO IN THE  
COMMITTEE OF 24 AS OCCURRED LAST YEAR. HE TOLD VRAALSEN  
THAT HE IS OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS AND SUGGESTED THAT VRAALSEN  
MIGHT"COME UP WITH ANOTHER MAGIC FORMULA."

2. VRAALSEN SAID THAT NO ACTION HAS YET BEEN TAKEN ON THE  
C-24'S UPDATE OF ITS 1974 REPORT ON PUERTO RICO. QUERIED  
ABOUT HOW TO BEST INSURE THE OBJECTIVITY AND BALANCE OF  
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THE UPDATE, VRAALSEN SAID THAT THE SECRETARIAT WOULD BE  
THE KEY ELEMENT. (WE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO FIND OUT WHICH  
SECRETARIAT OFFICER WILL BE CHARGED WITH THE INITIAL  
DRAFT.) VRAALSEN EXPRESSED OPTIMISM THAT THE UPDATE  
WOULD BE FACTUAL AND OBJECTIVE. HE TOLD US THAT  
THE SECRETARIAT IS NOW PLANNING A FACTURAL UPDATE OF  
MAJOR POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE 1974 REPORT

WITHOUT ANY UPDATE OF THE VIEWS OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES (WHICH WERE INCLUDED IN THE 1974 REPORT). VRAALSEN REPEATED ASSURANCES THAT NOTHING WOULD BE RELEASED WITHOUT CAREFUL SCRUTINY AND APPROVAL BY THE C-24 BUREAU.

3. IN SEPARATE DISCUSSIONS, AUSTRALIAN MISSION OFFICER FORRESTER EXPRESSED SIMILAR OPTIMISM ABOUT THE PREPARATION OF THE UPDATE, ANTICIPATED NO CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO PRIOR TO JULY OR AUGUST, BUT SUGGESTED A HIGH-LEVEL US DEMARCHE WITH SYRIA TO INSURE C-24 RAPPORTEUR BLAYEL'S COOPERATION IN THE PREPARATION OF THE UPDATE.

4. BOTH VRAALSEN AND FORRESTER EXPRESSED THE CONVICTION THAT THERE WILL BE NO DETERIORATION IN THE LANGUAGE IN THE C-24 CHAPTER ON MILITARY ACTIVITIES. BOTH RE-EMPHASIZED THE POSITIVE IMPACT THAT AN INVITATION TO THE C-24 TO SEND A VISITING MISSION TO A US TERRITORY WOULD HAVE. CONCERNING GUAM, FORRESTER SUGGESTED THAT AUSTRALIA COULD PROPOSE A FORMULA ON MILITARY BASES IN GUAM IN THE C-24 THAT WE COULD ABSTAIN ON IN A GA RESOLUTION ON GUAM.

5. COMMENT: USUN RECOMMENDS THAT THE DEPARTMENT CONSIDER RAISING OUR CONCERNS ABOUT THE UPDATE OF THE C-24 REPORT OF PUERTO RICO WITH THE SYRIANS AT AN APPROPRIATE HIGH LEVEL. USUN FURTHER RECOMMENDS THAT WE COME TO AN EARLY DECISION ABOUT THE MAXIMAL CONFIDENTIAL

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LANGUAGE ON MILITARY BASES ON GUAM ON WHICH WE COULD ABSTAIN ON A GA RESOLUTION ON GUAM TO ASSIST IN SEEKING TO AVOID A REPETITION OF LAST YEAR'S LANGUAGE.  
BENNETT UNQTE VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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